



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael D. Dunda

Title: TRIMMER WHEELED EXTENSION ARM

Serial No: 10/606,495

Filing Date: 6/25/03

Group Art Unit: 3671

Attorney Docket No: DUNM 101

Date: September 25, 2003

Mail Stop: Patent Applications
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

In compliance with Applicant's and his attorney's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, the Applicant does hereby submit the following Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO - 1449, and copies of the references listed thereon.

A patent search was manually conducted for the invention described in the above-referenced patent application. In the course of the search, no patents were found for an apparatus that has the same structural features or that operates in the same manner such as the invention listed above. The following Fourteen (14) patents, however, were noted as being of interest and are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention as references AA - AN. The significance of each listed reference is as follows:

1 AA. Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,836,142 (Maxwell) discloses a multiple frame
2 wheel attachment connectable to a gasoline powered weed trimmer. The wheel attachment
3 has a pair of wheels attached to the ends of an axle and a pair of frame assemblies connecting
4 the axle and wheels to the lawn trimmer. Both of the frame assemblies are mounted to the
5 axle and to the shaft of the device. One of the frame assemblies is attached to the shaft near
6 the operating unit of the device and the other frame assembly is attached to the shaft above
7 the point where the first frame assembly is attached. The first and second frame assemblies
8 support the shaft at two locations. The wheel attachment not only provides support during
9 operation of the handheld device, but also functions as a stand so that when the device is not
10 in use, it will remain in an upright position for storage, refueling service, and maintenance.

11 AB: Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,626,006 (Fricke, Sr.) discloses a dolly for portable
12 weed cutters that includes a frame provided with upper and lower clamp members for
13 engagement with a handle bar of a conventional portable weed cutter. A lower portion of the
14 frame includes a pair of symmetrical lower frame members each having a lower end rotatably
15 mounted on an axle extending transversely between and rotatably mounting a pair of wheels.
16 An upper end of each of the lower frame members is secured to the lower clamp member by
17 virtue of a fastener extending through a selected one of a plurality of apertures provided in a
18 body portion of the lower clamp member such that the lower clamp member is selectively
19 securable in pivotally and linearly adjustable position. The upper clamp member includes a
20 body portion pivotally connected to the upper frame portion. In a first embodiment of the
21 invention, the upper frame portion comprises a single linear strut centrally and transversely
22 connected to the axle. In a second embodiment of the invention, the upper frame portion

1 includes a pair of symmetrical upper frame members each having an upper end pivotally
2 mounted to a body portion of the upper clamp member and a lower end rotatably mounted on
3 the axle, adjacent a respective opposite wheel.

4 AC. Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,477,665 (Stout) discloses a strut apparatus for
5 supporting the head portion of a weed and grass cutting trimmer in a generally horizontal
6 mode. The trimmer includes an elongated tubular member providing a handle. The support
7 apparatus principally comprises a two-part telescoping strut in which a compression spring
8 interposed between the telescoping members substantially supports the mass of the trimmer
9 when the depending end portion of the strut is in contact with the surface of the earth and the
10 trimming head is positioned at a predetermined distance from the surface of the earth.

11 AD. Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,459,985 (Gedert) discloses a support for a line
12 trimmer features a rotatable sphere held by a set of tines that allows for free rotation of the
13 sphere in any direction. A line orientation indicator is also used to indicate the position of the
14 rotation line of the line trimmer with respect to horizontal. The support is attached to the
15 trimmer with a set of telescoping tubes that allow for easy adjustment of the height of the cut
16 of the trimmer.

17 AE. Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,450,715 (Murray) discloses a wheel assembly for
18 attachment to hand-held devices such as trimmers, edgers, blowers, metal detectors and the
19 like includes a wheeled frame having a clamp arranged to be freely secured to the wand of a
20 device for rotation of the wand therein. Stop members engage the wand on each side of the
21 clamp to prevent relative longitudinal sliding movement of the wand and the clamp. The
22 wheel assembly is thus able to be mounted on and retained in a desired position on the wand

1 while still permitting the wand to be rotated as desired to orient the working end of the
2 device, as for example with a string trimmer device, between a mowing orientation and an
3 edging orientation.

4 AF. Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,408,816 (Cartier) discloses a carriage for holding
5 horticultural motorized hand-held cutting devices, comprises an elongated frame having
6 opposite longitudinal sides and opposite lateral sides to define opposite ends. At least one
7 wheel, which defines the front of the carriage, is rotatably mounted on the frame at one of the
8 opposite lateral sides. An auxiliary wheel frame assembly, near the other of the opposite
9 lateral sides, extends from the elongated frame, respectively away from each of the opposite
10 longitudinal sides and downwardly from the elongated frame into a leg. Each of the legs has a
11 wheel rotatably mounted thereto. A handle on said elongated frame, propels and directs the
12 motion of the carriage. The elongated frame has rotatably mounted thereto a supporting
13 holder assembly for holding in an operating position a horticultural motorized hand-held
14 cutting device such as a weed eater, an edger, a trimmer, a blade cutter for branches and a
15 cultivator.

16 AG. Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,228,276 (Miller) discloses an attachment for a line
17 trimmer comprises a wheel in the form of a drum having an axis of rotation and a peripheral
18 flange between its ends, the flange extending outward from the drum in a plane perpendicular
19 to said axis, means for supporting the drum from the shaft of the line trimmer, and a clamp,
20 attachable to the trimmer, for securing the supporting means.

21 AH. Reference U.S. Patent No: 5,092,112 (Buckendorf, Jr.) discloses a wheeled
22 attachment for a grass trimmer includes a mounting bar having a wheel at each end,

1 detachably mountable to the grass trimmer to provide easy control and easy support for the
2 grass trimmer. The detachable bar may be securable by a nut and bolt combination either to a
3 housing or protective cover mounted on the grass cutting head immediately above the grass
4 cutting element, or to an adjustable bar component which is detachably securable to the
5 elongated shaft of the grass trimmer. For easy mounting upon the housing of a grass trimmer,
6 the detachable bar includes adjustment slots for the nut and bolt fasteners so that the fasteners
7 may be easily and quickly adjusted to the size of the housing component. For easy mounting
8 upon the elongated shaft of the grass trimmer, the adjustable bar component includes two or
9 more vertically extending bar members, which are adjustably attachable to permit forward or
10 rearward adjustment of the wheeled attachment. Further, the wheels may be preferably
11 positioned on the mounting bar so that the distance between the two wheels on the mounting
12 bar is less than the maximum cutting diameter of the flexible cutting line. Then, also, the
13 wheels may be swivelably mounted.

14 AI. Reference U.S. Patent No: 4,922,694 (Emoto) discloses a lightweight, 2-wheeled
15 support for a line trimmer that allows the trimmer to be used as a wheeled lawnmower and a
16 wheeled edger and that is adjustable for use with substantially all line trimmers.

17 AJ. Reference U.S. Patent No: 4,891,931 (Holland) discloses a wheel kit to be
18 attached to a weed cutting device to be bolted to the tube directly behind the motor to support
19 the weight of the cutting device while cutting or trimming grass or weeds.

20 AK. Reference U.S. Patent No: 4,879,869 (Buckendorf, Jr.) discloses a wheeled
21 attachment for a grass trimmer includes a mounting bar having a wheel at each end,
22 detachably mountable to the grass trimmer to provide easy control and easy support for the

1 grass trimmer. The detachable bar may be securable by a nut and bolt combination either to a
2 housing or protective cover mounted on the grass cutting head immediately above the grass
3 cutting element, or to an adjustable bar component which is detachably securable to the
4 elongated shaft of the grass trimmer. For easy mounting upon the housing of a grass trimmer,
5 the detachable bar includes adjustment slots for the nut and bolt fasteners so that the fasteners
6 may be easily and quickly adjusted to the size of the housing component. For easy mounting
7 upon the elongated shaft of the grass trimmer, the adjustable bar component includes two or
8 more vertically extending bar members which are adjustably attachable to permit forward or
9 rearward adjustment of the wheeled attachment. Further, the wheels may be preferably
10 positioned on the mounting bar so that the distance between the two wheels on the mounting
11 bar is less than the maximum cutting diameter of the flexible cutting line. Then, also, the
12 wheels may be swivelably mounted. wheeled attachment for a grass trimmer includes a
13 mounting bar having a wheel at each end, detachably mountable to the grass trimmer to
14 provide easy control and easy support for the grass trimmer. The detachable bar may be
15 securable by a nut and bolt combination either to a housing or protective cover mounted on
16 the grass cutting head immediately above the grass cutting element, or to an adjustable bar
17 component which is detachably securable to the elongated shaft of the grass trimmer. For
18 easy mounting upon the housing of a grass trimmer, the detachable bar includes adjustment
19 slots for the nut and bolt fasteners so that the fasteners may be easily and quickly adjusted to
20 the size of the housing component.

21 AL. Reference U.S. Patent No: 4,829,755 (Nance) discloses an apparatus to support a
22 trimmer used in cutting weeds or grass in a generally horizontal mode and having an elongate

1 tubular member providing a handle. The support apparatus includes a mounting assembly
2 having opposed ends, one of said ends being connected to the tubular member in height-
3 adjustable and angularly-adjustable relation and the other of said ends being connected to a
4 pair of ground wheels having an axis of rotation transverse to the axis of the cutting plane of
5 the trimmer.

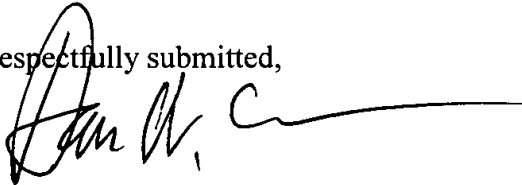
6 AM. Reference U.S. Patent No: 4,704,849 (Gilbert et al.) discloses a carriage finding
7 particular utility for support of a lawn trimmer is comprised of two frame members connected
8 by a yoke. The yoke is made of two pieces, which may pivot with respect to each other to
9 allow insertion or removal of the handle of the trimmer. When it is desired to store the
10 apparatus, the yoke may be broken into two pieces to reduce the area required for storage.
11 The yoke is pivotally mounted to the frame members to permit angular adjustment about a
12 horizontal axis, and various mounting holes are provided in the frame members to permit
13 further adjustment of the yoke.

14 AN. Reference U.S. Patent No: 4,531,350 (Huthmacher) discloses a wheeled
15 assembly supports and converts a hand-held power grass trimmer device into a wheeled
16 power mower. The assembly includes a wheeled frame and a two-part detachable joint. The
17 frame is mounted on ground-engaging, support wheels. The two-part joint includes (1) a
18 bracelet which is fixably and releasably mounted on the trimmer's shaft without impairing the
19 operator's ability to hand manipulate the trimmer when it is fully detached from the frame,
20 and (2) a casing secured to the frame which detachably receives and holds the bracelet
21 together with its shaft in a predetermined upstanding and inclined position against downward
22 and rotational movements, but leaves the casing free to release the lock between the bracelet

1 and the casing when a pull is exerted on the trimmer handle in an upward direction along the
2 longitudinal axis of the trimmer shaft.

3 The Applicant and his attorney submit that the above-cited references taken alone or
4 in combination neither anticipate nor render obvious the present invention. None of the
5 references disclose or claim an accessory for a line trimmer that includes an extension arm
6 with a rotating wheel assembly attached to its distal end, and a first clamp member that
7 attaches the extension arm to the main pole that enables the length of the extension arm to be
8 adjusted. The listed references relate only to the general field of the disclosure and do not
9 constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims; they are
10 cited only as constituting the closest art of which the Applicant and his attorney are aware.

11
12 Respectfully submitted,

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14 DEAN A. CRAINE

15 Reg. No. 33,591
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Docket Number (Optional)		Application Number	
				DUNM 101		10/606,495	
				Applicant(s)			
				Filing Date		Group Art Unit	
				6/25/03		3671	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	PAGE	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA		5,836,142	11/17/98	Maxwell	56	12.1	
AB		5,626,006	5/6/97	Fricke, Sr.	56	12.7	
AC		5,477,665	12/26/95	Stout	56	16.7	
AD		5,459,985	10/24/95	Gedert	56	17.2	
AE		5,450,715	9/19/95	Murray	56	16.9	
AF		5,408,816	4/25/95	Cartier	56	17.5	
AG		5,228,276	7/20/93	Miller	56	12.1	
AH		5,092,112	3/3/92	Buckendorf, Jr.	56	17.5	
AI		4,922,694	5/8/90	Emoto	56	16.7	
AJ		4,891,931	1/9/90	Holland	56	16.7	
AK		4,879,869	11/14/89	Buckendorf, Jr.	56	12.7	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				Docket Number (Optional) Dunm 101		Application Number 10/606,495	
				Applicant(s) Michael D. Dunda			
				Filing Date 6/25/03		Group Art Unit 3671	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AL	4,531,350	7/30/85	Huthmacher	56	17.5	
	AM	4,704,849	11/10/87	Gilbert	56	17.5	
	AN	4,829,755	5/16/89	Nance	56	17.1	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)Applicant(s): **Michael D. Dunda**

Docket No.

DUNM 101

Serial No.

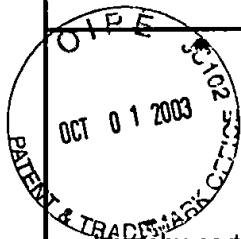
10/606,495

Filing Date

6/25/03

Examiner

Group Art Unit

3671Invention: **TRIMMER WHEELED EXTENSION ARM**I hereby certify that this **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT***(Identify type of correspondence)*

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **September 25, 2003***(Date)***Kytt Riha***(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kytt Riha".

*(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)***Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.**